

May 8, 15, 2013

No. 20737

**NOTICE OF DECISION.
PILGRIM CREEK TIMBER
SALE PROJECT
Cabinet Ranger District
Kootenai National Forest**

On May 7, 2013, I decided to implement Alternative 3 from the Pilgrim Creek Timber Sale Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The selected alternative includes a combination of mechanical treatments, and prescribed burning to treat forest stands in the project area. Approved actions include 536 acres of commercial thinning, 512 acres of seed tree, and 386 acres of shelterwood harvest, all with associated treatment of activity generated fuels; and 4,564 acres of natural fuels burning. The project is located in the Pilgrim Creek drainage, five miles west of Noxon, Montana.

To facilitate timber harvesting approximately 4.7 miles of road will be constructed and up to 47 miles of existing National Forest System roads will be reconstructed to meet State Best Management Practices (BMP) standards

The decision includes a project-specific Forest Plan amendment for Management Area (MA) 12 to modify the Facilities standard #3, suspending the requirement that open roads will not exceed an average density of 0.75 miles per square mile within the contiguous MA. This modification would allow implementation of vegetation management treatments that will provide increased forage production for big game, and applies only to the Pilgrim Creek project area. This amendment will be in place only during the life of the project. I have determined that this amendment is not significant as defined in the National Forest Management Act.

Copies of the Record of Decision (ROD) and the Final EIS are available on the Kootenai National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kootenai/landmanagement/project> s or from the Cabinet Ranger District, 2693 U.S. Highway 200, Trout Creek, MT 59874. The telephone number is (406) 827-3533.

This decision is subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Only individuals or organizations who submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest by the close of the specified comment period may appeal this project (36 CFR 215.13). It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of this legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 215.15).

A written appeal must be submitted within 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Daily Inter Lake, Kalispell, Montana to: USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, ATTN: Appeals Deciding Officer (RFO), P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807, or faxed to: (406) 329-3411.

Electronic appeals must be submitted to: appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us

In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed. An automated response will confirm your electronic appeal has been received. Electronic appeals must be submitted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF).

It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why my decision should be reversed. Appeals must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.14.

If an appeal is received on this project there may be informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the Responsible Official and the appellant. These discussions would take place within 15 days after the closing date for filing an appeal. All such meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current appeals in the Northern Region of the Forest Service: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r1/appeal-meetings>.

If no appeal is received,

implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If an appeal is received, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of appeal disposition.

/s/ PAUL BRADFORD
Forest Supervisor

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